


DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of Water Management

MEMORANDUM

TO: AMA Directors, Dick Gessner, Barbara Markham, Doug Toy, Larry Linser
FROM: Herb Dishlip 
DATE: February 28, 1991
RE: Interim Service Area Policy

On November 27, the Director approved the attached interim service area policy. This policy is intended to provide guidance with regard to the location of service areas until such time as the Department adopts formal rules. The policy is to be implemented as described below.

Interim Policy

The interim policy, which expands upon the service area definition provided in A.R.S 45-402.26, states that "land actually being served" shall refer to an area extending 100 feet from the point of service or use. It also states that "additions to such area containing an operating distribution system" shall refer to an area extending 100 feet from operating distribution system. At this time, the point of use and location of the operating distribution system need only be identified for purposes of reviewing applications for Type 1 conversions, General Industrial Use Permits and service area or recovery well permit applications.

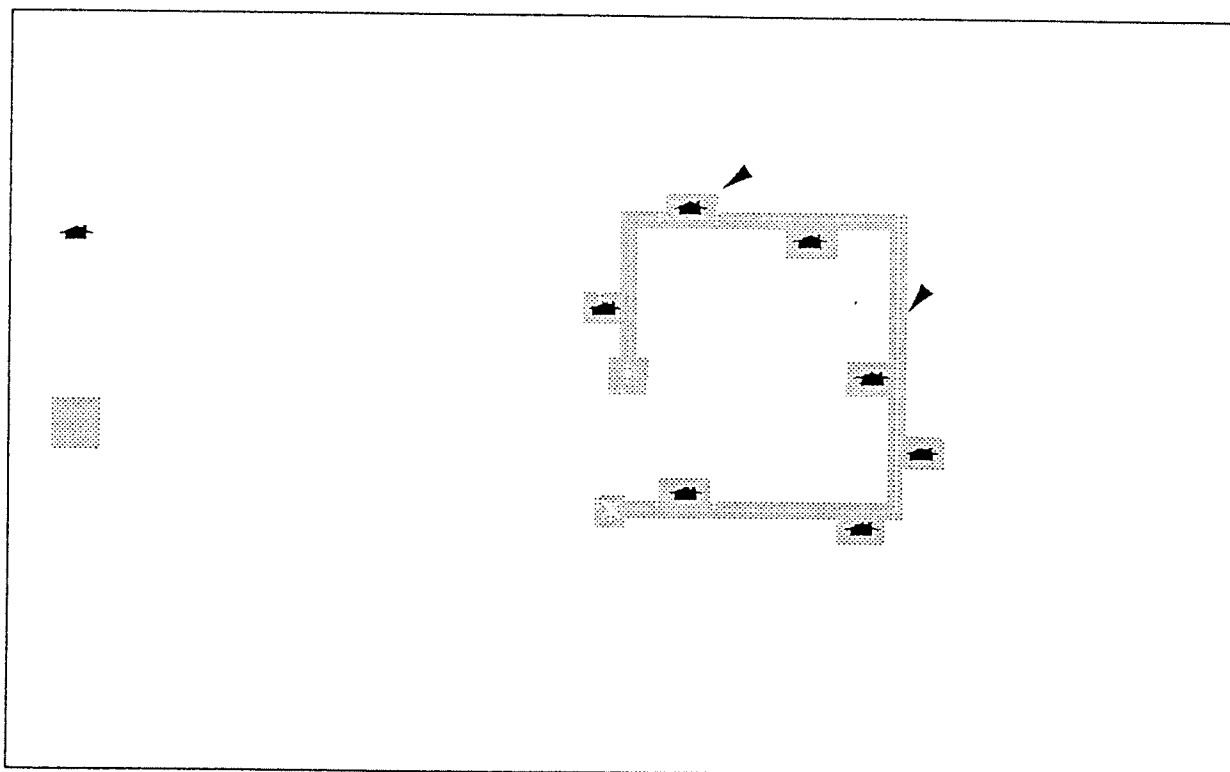
Operating Distribution System

The term "operating distribution system" shall include permanently installed, operating pipes and canals which are currently in operation or are capable of serving water upon request. Operating distribution system also includes wells, water collection facilities, treatment facilities and storage facilities which are connected to permanently installed pipes and canals, and which are currently in operation or can be made operable upon request.

Exterior Boundaries

To determine the qualification status of proposed Type 1 conversions and General Industrial Use Permit applications, exterior boundaries of any service area in the general location of the proposed activity must be delineated. The exterior boundaries are, in effect, the outer boundary of the 100 foot buffer (Figure A). Land that is within the outer boundary of the buffer does not qualify for either a General Industrial Use Permit or a Type 1 conversion. Two or more adjoining service areas are to be treated as a single service area in making such determinations.

FIGURE A
Delineation of Service Area Using the 100 Foot Buffer



Conversions of Irrigation GFRs to Type 1 GFRs

In cases where an Irrigation GFR lies on the exterior boundary of a service area, the total acres must be reduced by any acreage within the 100 foot buffer to determine the eligible acres. Maps to accompany the new Type 1 right should reflect this deduction, and should

indicate the location of the point of use or operating distribution system of the service area.

General Industrial Use Permits

If it is determined that the withdrawal or use of water proposed on a General Industrial Use Permit application is outside of a service area, the exterior boundaries of all service areas within three miles of the proposed withdrawal or use must be identified. Exterior boundaries should be delineated as described above. The applicant must apply for and be denied service from these providers before the application can be considered further.

Service Area Wells

Because well permit applications currently ask for location down to the 10 acre quarter section only, providers will need to supply a map showing the exact point location of the well in relation to the operating distribution system or point of use. The "S" permit application will need to be amended to indicate this requirement.

Service Area Maps

Providers will continue to supply maps with the operating distribution system location only. Points of use and the 100 foot buffer will need to be determined by staff on a case-by-case basis.

Assured Water Supply

This policy affects assured water supply designations only with regard to the location of the current operating distribution system or service area uses. Future extensions or areas to be served by deemed or designated providers are not affected.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
POLICY GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

November 27, 1990

**INTERIM POLICY FOR DELINEATING SERVICE AREAS OF CITIES,
TOWNS AND PRIVATE WATER COMPANIES**

The Groundwater Code, in A.R.S 45-402.26, defines the term "service area" as:

(a) With respect to a city or town, the area of land actually being served water by the city or town plus: 1) additions to such area which contain an operating distribution system owned by the city or town primarily for the delivery of non-irrigation water; 2) the service area of a city, town or private water company that obtains its water from the city pursuant to a contract entered into prior to the date of designation of the active management area.

(b) With respect to a private water company, the area of land of the private water company actually being served water by the private water company plus additions to such area which contain an operating distribution system owned by the private water company primarily for the delivery of non-irrigation water.

For purposes of implementing provisions of the Groundwater Code relating to service areas prior to the adoption of Service Area Rules by the Department, the following interim interpretation of A.R.S 45-402.26 will be used:

"Land actually being served" shall refer to an area extending 100 feet from the point of service or use.

"Additions to such area containing an operating distribution system" shall refer to an area extending 100 feet from operating distribution system.